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## Where Are the City's Greatest Pulpit Orators?

Dr. William T. Manning, Rector of Trinity, Has Four Times Declined Bishopric; May Be Called Again

## Has Strong Personality

His Human Side Revealed by War, and Men of 77th Call Him "Good Scout"

If any one were asked to name the most famous church in New York City the unhesitating reply would be "Trinity."

The beautiful Gothic pile at the head of Wall Street is familiar to every resident and its outline is known to millions all over this country and abroad through the educating process of the motion picture. No sightseeing trip in the city is complete without a visit to Trinity.

The personality of its rector, like the disposition of the corporation funds, is much of an enigma. For eleven years Dr. William T. Manning has been rector. For some years before his election to the rectorship he was vicar of St. Agnes's Chapel, a part of the Trinity establishment. But the viceroy of his aloofness has never been worn down. He is an Englishman by birth and although he has been in America since he was ten years old, he has lost nothing of the traditional reserve of the Briton. Yet he is a sympathetic parish priest before he was called to the larger task of the Trinity rectorship, which affords him little time or opportunity for personal ministrations.

Looked Upon as Institution

In the eyes of the New York public the rector of Trinity Parish is an institution. During America's preparation for active hostilities, when the New York draft troops were training at Camp Upton, Dr. Manning ceased for the time to be the rector and became a chaplain, living with the soldiers, sharing with them their hardships. He disclosed his human side. But he returned to his own parish when the need for services at Camp Upton was at an end and he became again the institution.

In spite of this he is a man of strong personality. Trinity is a great establishment. No man can rise superior to it, no matter how strong his personality; he becomes rather a part of it.

Four times Dr. Manning could have been a bishop of the Church. The Diocese of Kentucky elected him, then the Diocese of Harrisburg, Penn., wanted him for the first bishop. The Diocese of Washington would have elected him had he not been given the word. The historic See of Western New York called him.

One offer after another he declined. The first came when he had not achieved national eminence—proof that he was not a bishop. The second came when it was known that he would succeed Dr. Morgan Dix as rector of Trinity Parish.

May Be Elected Again

Now there is a possibility—it is more than that, it is a probability—that he will be elected. This time Bishop David H. Greer as head of the Diocese of New York. Whether he will accept this call is a question. Trinity, with its chapel spread all over Manhattan and elsewhere, with its huge responsibilities and its great wealth, is a little diocese in itself. The rectorship is one of the most desired and desirable places in the Church. The question as to the range of usefulness, whether as rector of Trinity or as head of the diocese, is a fine one and it would be very difficult to decide.

Dr. Manning is a preacher of a most unusual type. There is no one quite like him in the city. He has been called master of the pulpit. His method is to stand in his pulpit for several moments without uttering a word. Then to announce his text in slow, steady, unemphatic tones. He speaks with a quietness and a directness that is almost sure of himself and he disdains the rising inflection.

No one can deny that he is a convincing speaker. He is not only with out eloquence, as that word is generally understood; yet he is magnetic. Thoroughly in Earnest

He impresses his hearers as one who is thoroughly in earnest, and because of that he compels attention. Yet it is obvious that he cares nothing for personal popularity. Once he said from the pulpit: "It is not the business of the minister to please you, or to be popular with you, or even to try to win your affection, though your duty is faithfully done this may be given to faithful souls."

His bearing denotes his absolute belief in that statement. What he says is the summary of his conclusions from deep thought and earnest study. If his hearers do not like it that must be no concern of his. It is his duty to interpret things as he sees them. Dr. Manning is a high churchman, a leader of the high church movement. To him the ceremonialism of the church is second nature. It blends with his sense of duty. One could not imagine his offering an extemporaneous prayer—it would be too self-revealing. The ancient liturgies, the Psalms—all these are to give expression to every spiritual life. They are expressive enough and properly unobtrusive.

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picture of Trinity's rector that he has personality to such a degree that he could be no warmth of feeling for him. The reverse is true. He stands as a living exponent of a system that has been the most critical and appreciative audiences in the world—American soldiers and ex-soldiers from France.

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## A Soldier Says

THE MOST ungrateful job in the world," says Roy Mack, who has just returned from France after seventeen months' service with the 304th Engineers, "is being top sergeant. I had my share and I never want to do it again. I'd rather be a buck private doing the worst detail work than take another turn at being sergeant."

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Sergeant Mack is busy looking for a job. He had been doing indoor work before he joined the service, but he says he won't go back to his old job under any conditions. "It's to the farm for me," he adds, "I am not particular where I land as long as it is in broad, open country."

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